

**TOWN OF ROYALSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Werner Bundschuh, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Andrew West, Member.

1. Chairman Bundschuh called the meeting to order.
2. The minutes of the 7/5/05 meeting were read. Mr. West made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. The minutes of the 6/27/05 meeting were also read. Mr. West moved to accept the minutes as read. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) Mr. Kellner reported that he spoke with Lori LaRoche, current owner of the LaRoche property on King Street. She has agreed to sell the land to the Town for \$1. The town would draw up a new deed. There is approximately \$20,000 owed in taxes. Gary Winitzer asked if the town would have to pay to clean up the property rather than the insurance company. Mr. Kellner said that he has received information that there was no insurance on the property. Mr. Bundschuh said that it has been determined that the taxes are uncollectable and therefore the property has no value. Mr. Kellner explained that when liens on the property are more than the actual value, there is no reason why anyone would pay the taxes. The property no longer has any value to the homeowner. The Town did not take proper legal action because it did not determine the property as a total loss. Mr. Kellner made a motion to hire a lawyer to write up a deed to convey the property to the town for \$1 and to include wording that people will not take any legal action against the town. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
 - b) The Board received a written complaint from Charles Longworth regarding several unregistered vehicles on property north of mile 57 on the west side of Route 32. Chief Deveneau will check the location and follow up on the issue.
 - c) Mr. West stated that he would bring forward a complaint regarding the sodium lights at the Town Hall at the public hearing on 7/21/05.
 - d) Mr. Kellner and Keith Newton continue to work with Mr. Salidino regarding the water issue at his property. Also, Mr. Salidino owns 200' of frontage on Route 68 that runs along the river, which he would be willing to sign over the right of way to if the Open Space Committee and community work to improve it.
 - e) Mr. West spoke with the Operations Manager at Guilford Railroad who was shocked to learn that trains were idling at the crossing in South Royalston. He said to call him if there was any further problem.
4. Department Head Reports:
 - a) Police Department –
 - 1) Chief Deveneau presented the Board with correspondence he received from the Attorney General's Office regarding rules relating to gambling and enforcement for Texas Hold 'Em Tournaments.
 - 2) Discussion was held regarding the constable's position currently held by Melanie Mangum. Chief Deveneau recommended that the Board appoint John Chencherik to the position. Mr. Kellner made a motion to put a notice in the next newsletter to advertise the vacancy. Mr. West seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

- 3) Chief Deveneau has written the application for the Homeland Security Grant. He wants to change the radio system at the police station and also to get a trailer to haul behind the ATV. The application deadline is 8/1/05. Mr. West moved that Mr. Kellner be the contact person for the grant application. Mr. Bundschuh seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor.
- 4) He would like the Board to consider two applicants for the currently vacant police officer positions. Mr. Kellner made a motion to ask the candidates to appear at the Board's next meeting on 8/2/05. Mr. West seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

5. New Business:

- a) 8:00 p.m. – John McClure re: Cemeteries – The Board has been getting complaints about Riverside Cemetery. Mr. McClure stated that the contract allows for four mowings per year. Willard Newton of Four Seasons Landscaping, who currently holds the contract, has done another rotation of all cemeteries recently, which was not included in the contract. The weather has caused the grass to grow longer. Also, the contract does not include spring and fall clean-up, which Mr. Newton does anyway. Mr. Bundschuh said that the proposal for the contract for this fiscal year is 10% above last year's for cemeteries. The proposal for Parks & Commons will also be 10% above last year. Cemetery Commissioner Stephanie McClure commented that Mr. Newton does about 50% above what the contract says. Mr. Bundschuh asked if there is money in the Cemetery budget to fund two additional mowings. Mr. McClure said the cost is \$750 per mowing outside of the contract and that his budget could pay for it. They are still planning to replace the gate and a short length of fence at Riverside. Discussion was held regarding the need for all Committees, Commissions, etc. to hold regular meetings. Mr. West made a motion to add two mowings at the Riverside Cemetery. Mr. Kellner seconded, with the vote being unanimous in favor.
- b) Performance Reviews – DPW – The Board decided to wait until Keith Newton was present to discuss this matter.

6. Old Business:

- a) As discussed at a previous meeting, Mr. West stated that he would like to present a citation to Amber the police dog. He will invite Roland Hamel and Sherry Miner, Amber's handlers, to the 8/16/05 meeting.

At 8:25 p.m., Mr. Kellner made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy relating to union negotiations. Mr. West seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor. Mr. West made a motion to go out of Executive Session at 9:03 p.m. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor.

7. New Business (continued):

- c) 9:30 p.m. – John Ryan re: CDBG – Mr. Bundschuh introduced Mr. Ryan from Breezeway Development. Due to the formal rejection letter from MRPC stating that the town did not receive the CDBG grant, Phil Delorey recommended that the Board meet with Mr. Ryan, who is a private consultant who prepares grant applications. He could guide the town through the block grant application process. He said that the town should ask for the review notes from DHCD, look at the list of projects and how the funds were allocated, and have a meeting with people from the state who handle the grant applications. If the town should decide to hire Mr. Ryan, he would help the Board to prepare for requesting matching funds at town meeting.

8. Zoning Project Taskforce: Kim MacPhee and Vyto Andreliunas presented a draft proposal (copy attached) for the Smart Growth Grant application. They recommend that the Board consider applying for the full amount available, which is \$30,000. The grants require a 15% match from the town. A consultant would be able to work with the town to explore specific zoning recommendations and develop the drafts of proposed zoning amendments and also to assist with public education. The outcome would be proposed zoning amendments in a format that could be presented at town meeting. Ms. MacPhee has offered to write the grant application. The deadline is 8/16/05. She would need a letter stating that the Board commits to earmarking the money. Mr. Bundschuh made a motion to support the writing of this grant application for the Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant. Mr. West seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

9. The Treasury Warrant was signed.

At 11:00 p.m., Mr. West made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.

Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.

